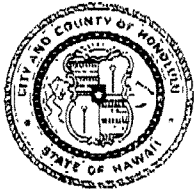


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CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

ROD TAM
COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT VI
(808) 547-7006
(808) 523-4220 (fax)
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April 20, 2005

MEDIA RELEASE

As the City Council representative of the downtown area, I have introduced resolution, 05-139, Urging the City Administration to retain the Diamond Head Crosswalks at the King Street-Bishop Street and King Street-Punchbowl Street intersections.

In the past few weeks there has been a dedicated effort by concerned citizens and students to retain two crosswalks designated by the City Administration for removal in the interest of increasing traffic flow at these two intersections. These two crosswalks are located on the Diamond Head side of the intersections of King and Punchbowl and King and Bishop Streets.

I have learned today that the Mayor has announced he will not be removing the crosswalk at King and Bishop Streets and I am very appreciative to him for that. I would specifically like to thank Dolores Mollring and Lynne Matusow of the Downtown Neighborhood Board for their hard work and efforts to save the crosswalk. I would also like to commend the students of the Honolulu Waldorf School who decided to participate in our democratic process to save the crosswalks and who saw first hand how their participation made an impact on the decision to keep the King and Bishop Street crosswalk.

I understand that the administration's reasons for removing the crosswalks were to improve the traffic flow in the downtown area but it is my opinion that this cannot be done to the detriment of our pedestrians and their safety. Removal of the crosswalks would probably have resulted in pedestrians jaywalking across King Street to save time and this would have created a very dangerous option for them.

I am hopeful that the Mayor will also reconsider the removal of the King and Punchbowl Street crosswalk for the sake of our pedestrians and their safety. Jaywalking at this location would be even more dangerous than at the King and Bishop Street crosswalk because of the increased traffic here and the increased speed of the cars passing this location.

I will be happy to work with the Mayor and his administration on alternative plans to address improvements of traffic flow through the downtown area. For further information please call me at 216-5454.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 05-139

RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO RETAIN THE DIAMOND HEAD CROSSWALKS AT THE KING STREET-BISHOP STREET AND KING STREET-PUNCHBOWL STREET INTERSECTIONS.

WHEREAS, the City administration is considering removal of the Diamond Head crosswalks at either or both of the King Street-Bishop Street and King Street-Punchbowl Street intersections; and

WHEREAS, the Diamond Head crosswalks at the King Street-Bishop Street and King Street-Punchbowl Street intersections are among the most heavily used in the City; and

WHEREAS, while the elimination of either or both of these crosswalks may increase the convenience of makai-bound motorists, it is at least as likely that such action may greatly inconvenience the movement of a high volume of pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the Council and the City administration are in receipt of numerous letters and petitions from the Downtown Neighborhood Board, downtown workers, and members of the general public who are concerned over diminished pedestrian safety and convenience and therefore express strong opposition to the proposal by the City to remove the crosswalks; and

WHEREAS, the opponents of the City administration's proposal further assert that pedestrians who currently use those crosswalks to reach their destinations will be forced to make additional crossings at the subject intersections compared to the minimal traffic flow improvements resulting from the removal of the crosswalks; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it hereby urges the City administration to retain the Diamond Head crosswalks at the King Street-Bishop Street and King Street-Punchbowl Street intersections; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 05-139

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Director of Transportation Services, and the Downtown Neighborhood Board.

INTRODUCED BY:

Rod Lamm
Romy M. Luchessa
Edgar Marshall
Alan Kobayashi

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

APR 19 2005

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers